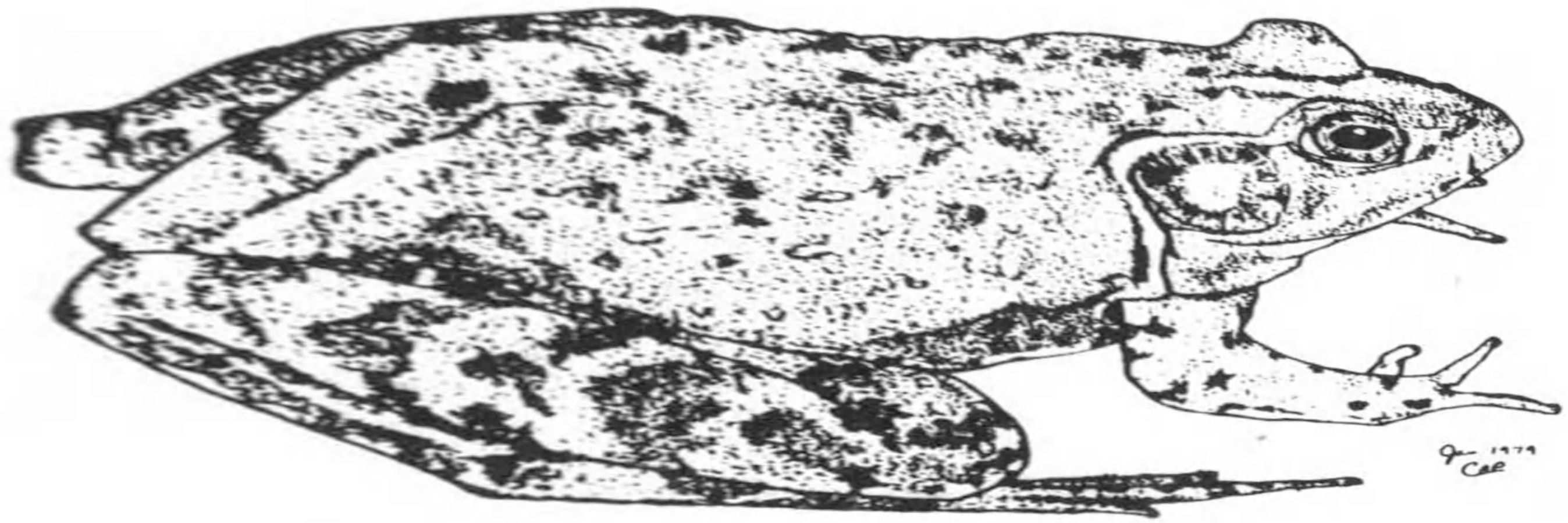


**CATESBEIANA**



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## BULLETIN INFORMATION

*Catesbeiana* is issued twice a year by the Virginia Herpetological Society. Membership is open to all individuals interested in the study of amphibians and reptiles. It includes a subscription to *Catesbeiana* and admission to all meetings.

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

The principle function of *Catesbeiana* is to publish observations and original research about Virginia herpetology. Rarely will articles be reprinted in *Catesbeiana* after they have been published elsewhere. All correspondence relative to suitability of manuscripts or other editorial considerations should be directed to the editor.

### Major Papers

Manuscripts submitted for publication should be typewritten (double spaced) on good quality 8.5 x 11 inch paper, with adequate margins. Consult articles in recent issues of *Catesbeiana* for style and format. Articles will be refereed by at least one officer (past or present) of the Virginia Herpetological Society in addition to the editor. All changes must be approved by the author before publication. Therefore, manuscripts should be submitted well in advance of the March or September mailing dates.

Reprints of articles are not available to authors. However, authors may reprint articles themselves to meet professional needs.

Continued on inside back cover.

# CATESBEIANA

## Bulletin of the Virginia Herpetological Society

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Volume 9

Fall, 1989

No. 2

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### Meeting Notice

The fall 1989 VHS meeting will be held on October 7 at Maymont Park in Richmond, Virginia. See page 43 for details.

Cover: *Rana catesbeiana* by Christopher A. Pague

"(Salamander)

The salamander is a beast,  
Which in tail and in head  
And in body is like a lizard.  
It has no fear that any fire burn it,  
For of fire, it does not fear the heat.  
Many diverse colours it has,  
If in fire by chance it gets  
The fire it will put out straightway;  
No matter how big a blaze there is,  
It is all put out at once.  
It carries poison in such strength  
That it has struck down a man at once,  
And it would do great damage  
If it climbed up an apple tree.  
The apples it so poisons that  
Whoever eats them, he is done for.  
And if it fall into a great well  
It will poison all the water,  
So that none can drink it and survive;  
So powerful its venom."

[From The Bestiary of Guillaume le Clerc.  
Translated by George Claridge Druce. Ashford,  
Kent: Headley Brothers, 1936. Originally  
written in 1210-1211 in Norman-French.]

Thanks to Christina Bolgiano for sending this in.



# A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE, VIRGINIA

Joseph C. Mitchell and Wendy H. Mitchell  
Department of Biology  
University of Richmond  
Richmond, Virginia 23173

Sweet Briar College lies on the western edge of the Piedmont Physiographic Province within the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Amherst County, Virginia. The herpetofauna of the area is characteristically piedmont but includes several species found primarily in the mountains. The size of Sweet Briar campus and the presence of a variety of habitats, in addition to its location, insures the presence of a diverse fauna.

This report includes incidental observations and records accumulated from 30 March 1979 to 19 October 1986. During the period of 3-6 July 1982 one of us (JCM) walked through all designated natural areas (Figure 1) and recorded all observations on reptiles and amphibians. Also noted were types of habitats present in these areas so species not encountered could be predicted. Additional observations made by WHM from the mid-1950's onward, who grew up on Sweet Briar campus, are also included. We include comments on the herpetofauna of each natural area and a checklist (Table 1) of known and suspected amphibians and reptiles of Sweet Briar College. Voucher specimens of most species were collected and will be donated to a public museum collection.

## Description of the Campus

Sweet Briar campus is located southwest of Amherst, Amherst County, Virginia. Of the 3200 acres owned by the college, 2438 lie to the west of US 29. Although the main part of the campus consists of several building complexes and mowed fields, the majority of the area (about 2000 acres) is covered with mixed hardwood forest. This forest is mature, with oak, hickory, and large tulip poplar trees dominating the vegetation. There has been little to no logging since the turn of the century. Some agricultural land surrounds the dairy farm (some 700 acres) and riding facility.

Two lakes occur on the main campus; a smaller one lies upstream from the main lake. The lower lake is mostly surrounded by forest, except near the dam and at the boating and swimming facility at the upper end.

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*Catesbeiana* 1989, 9(2):25-31.

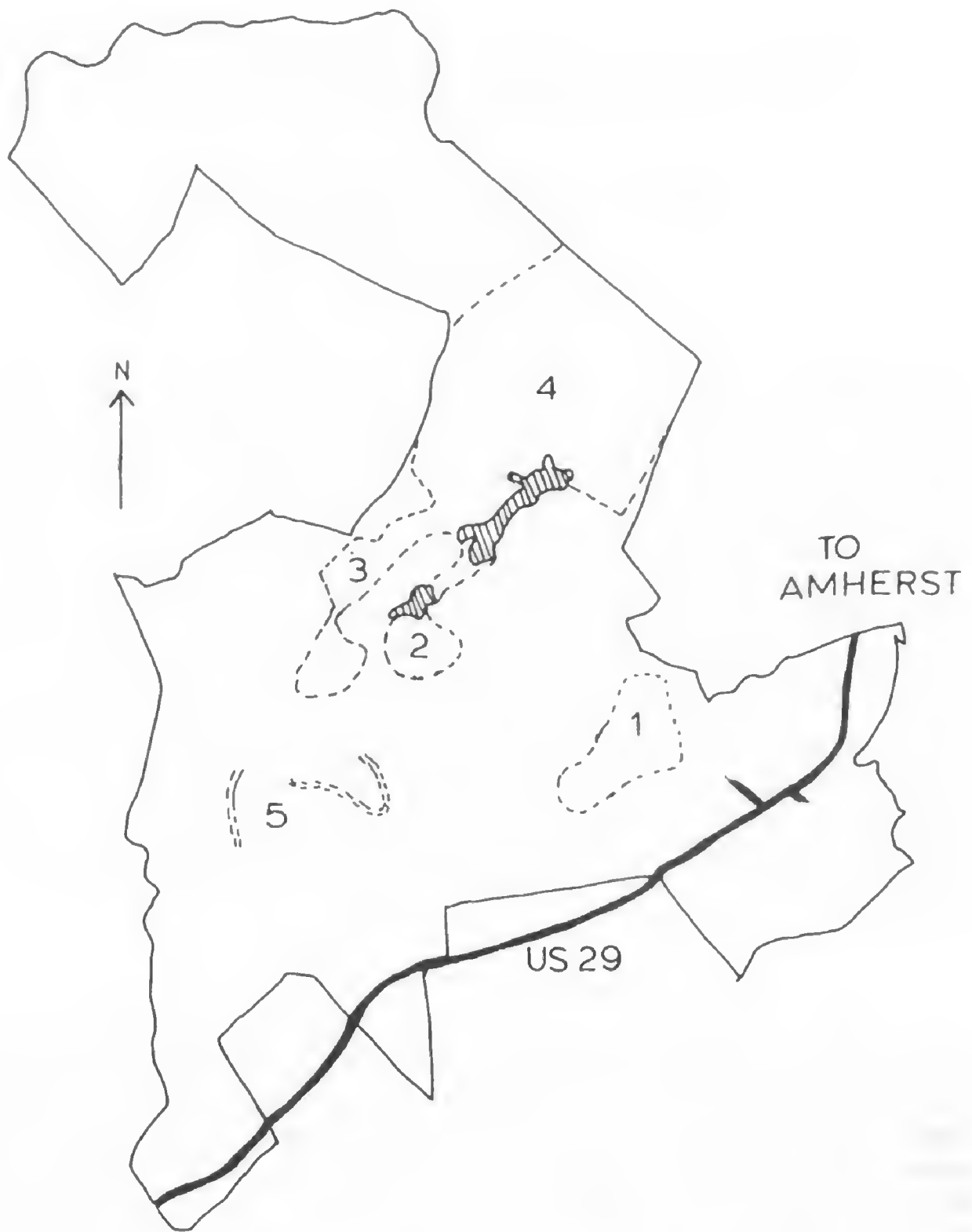


Figure 1. Configuration of the Sweet Briar College Campus and location of the Natural Areas. Area 1 is the Carry Nature Sanctuary and Duberg Study Area, Area 2 is the Boone-Pryor Natural Area, Area 3 is the Ecological Studies Preserve, Area 4 is the Ecological Study Area, and Area 5 is the Rutledge Creek Natural Area. Not shown on this map are the San Angelo, Merrywood, Bear Mountain, and Amherst tracts, an additional 840 acres. Two lakes on the main campus are represented by diagonal lines.

An additional 840 acres are located in several separate tracts. The largest, San Angelo, lies to the east of US 29. This tract consists of mostly agricultural fields, but a small lake offers some relatively natural habitat. The remaining tracts are wooded and lie off campus.

Six areas have been designated natural or study areas and used to varying degrees by classes. These are identified in Figure 1.

### Natural Areas and their Herpetofaunas

Carry Nature Sanctuary and Duberg Study Area - These two areas are considered together because they overlap extensively. They are entirely covered with hardwood forest that is approaching the old growth stage. Amphibians and reptiles found here are either adapted to the cool forest floor, are aquatic species inhabiting small streams that traverse the area, or are transients. *Plethodon cylindraceus* has occasionally been found under logs or in stumps. In the streams that bisect these areas, both spring fed, the following salamanders have been found: *Desmognathus fuscus*, *Eurycea bislineata*, *Pseudotriton ruber*, *Notophthalmus viridescens* (efts) have been found in a dry old sewage-treatment plant pit surrounded by bamboo.

Reptiles known from this area include the secretive *Storeria dekayi* and *Carphophis amoenus*, *Thamnophis sirtalis*, and *Ophedrys aestivus*. *Terrapene carolina* are common and several have been found each year in the old sewage-treatment plant pit.

Boone-Pryor Nature Area - This is a small forested area located between the science building and the upper lake. The oak, hickory, and tulip trees are large and the ground has an abundance of logs and limbs. The remains of several chestnut trees, felled over a half century ago from the chestnut blight, are still apparent. The most abundant amphibians are *Plethodon cylindraceus* which are found in decaying chestnut stumps and under objects on the forest floor. *Eurycea bislineata* were occasionally found under logs or chestnut slabs. Most of the herpetofauna of this area is associated with the small pond or the creeks that feed the upper lake. The following amphibians have been found in the pond: *Ambystoma maculatum*, *Notophthalmus viridescens*, *Desmognathus fuscus*, *E. bislineata*, *Eurycea longicauda guttolineata*, *Rana catesbeiana*, *Rana clamitans melanota*, *Hyla crucifer*, and *Hyla versicolor*. Reptiles known from the pond are *Chrysemys picta* and *Nerodia sipedon*.

*Eurycea bislineata* and *Desmognathus fuscus* have been found in the creeks. *Hyla versicolor* and *Rana clamitans* usually breed in the small horticultural pool at the greenhouse on the edge of this area. A single *Eumeces fasciatus* has been seen on the outside wall of the greenhouse.

Ecological Studies Preserve - This area is comprised solely of an agricultural field left to natural succession and is part of the Ecological Study Area. When we visited this area, the community was dominated by grasses. Due to the open



field habitat and lack of foliage cover and litter/humus layers, the herpetofauna is less diverse than in other areas. Only the larvae of *Hyla versicolor* have been found in a water-filled tire rut here.

Ecological Study Area - This is the largest designated natural area and is dominated by a mixed hardwood forest on the slopes and ravines leading from the ridge to Williams Creek. Several springs feed the creek and lake. Virginia pine dominates the ridge above Sweet Briar lake.

In terrestrial habitats where there is sufficient moisture and cover, the most common amphibian is *Plethodon cylindraceus*. One *Eumeces fasciatus* was observed in the pine stand. In Sweet Briar Creek, we have observed *Rana clamitans*, and in Williams Creek we have found *Desmognathus fuscus*, *Eurycea bislineata*, *Eurycea longicauda guttolineata*, *Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*, and *Pseudotriton ruber*.

In Sweet Briar Lake, we have caught *Chrysemys picta* and *Chelydra serpentina*. An unidentified large basking turtle was observed in 1981 and was probably a red-eared turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*). This species was commonly sold in pet stores as hatchlings and many have been released in lakes in Virginia, especially those associated with colleges.

On the dam of the lake we have seen *Elaphe obsoleta*, *Nerodia sipedon*, *Eumeces fasciatus*, and *Sceloporus undulatus*. *Hyla versicolor* enjoys favorable habitat in and around the water pumphouse near the boating facility.

Rutledge Creek - This is a small area located along a stream near the dairy farm. A mix of oak, sycamore, tulip, and dogwood trees line the creek. During the brief survey conducted in July 1982 we recorded the following species: *Rana clamitans*, *Elaphe obsoleta*, and *Nerodia sipedon*.

## Discussion

The diversity of microhabitats available in the 3200 acre campus of Sweet Briar College should harbor a greater diversity of reptiles and amphibians than encountered so far. Many species are fossorial or are active only in certain seasons of the year. Only after several years of additional observations or after a more intensive survey is conducted could the checklist (Table 1) be considered complete.

We discovered no rare species, as listed in Pague and Mitchell (1987), Mitchell and Pague (1987), and Mitchell (1989), on Sweet Briar property. The only species in these lists that has been found nearby is *Tantilla coronata* (southeastern crowned snake), a species in the Status Undetermined category. Tobey (1985) recorded a specimen collected from Madison Heights, Amherst County in 1961, about 8 miles south of Sweet Briar. This snake could be found in xeric areas with predominately pine stands. Otherwise, the Sweet Briar herpetofauna is comprised of species commonly found in many parts of Virginia.



Table 1. Checklist of known and suspected amphibians and reptiles of Sweet Briar College.

## AMPHIBIA

### Anura - Frogs and toads

<i>Acris crepitans crepitans</i> Baird*	Northern Cricket Frog
<i>Bufo americanus americanus</i> Holbrook*	American Toad
<i>Bufo woodhousii fowleri</i> Hinckley	Fowler's Toad
<i>Hyla crucifer crucifer</i> Wied	Northern Spring Peeper
<i>Hyla versicolor</i> Le Conte	Gray Treefrog
<i>Pseudacris triseriata feriarum</i> (Baird)*	Upland Chorus Frog
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i> Shaw	Bullfrog
<i>Rana clamitans melanota</i> (Rafinesque)	Green Frog
<i>Rana sylvatica</i> Le Conte*	Wood Frog
<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii holbrookii</i> (Harlan)*	Eastern Spadefoot

### Caudata - Salamanders

<i>Ambystoma maculatum</i> (Shaw)	Spotted Salamander
<i>Ambystoma opacum</i> (Gravenhorst)*	Marbled Salamander
<i>Desmognathus fuscus fuscus</i> (Green)	Northern Dusky Salamander
<i>Eurycea bislineata bislineata</i> (Green)	Northern Two-lined Salamander
<i>Eurycea longicauda guttolineata</i> (Holbrook)	Three-lined Salamander
<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus porphyriticus</i> (Green)*	Northern Spring Salamander
<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i> (Schlegel)*	Four-toed Salamander
<i>Notophthalmus viridescens viridescens</i> (Rafinesque)	Red-Spotted Newt
<i>Plethodon cinereus</i> (Green)*	Red-backed Salamander
<i>Plethodon cylindraceus</i> (Harlan)	White-spotted Slimy Salamander
<i>Pseudotriton montanus montanus</i> Baird*	Eastern Mud Salamander
<i>Pseudotriton ruber ruber</i> (Latreille)	Northern Red Salamander

## REPTILIA

### Squamata - Lizards and Snakes

#### Lacertilia - Lizards

<i>Eumeces fasciatus</i> (Linnaeus)	Five-lined Skink
<i>Eumeces laticeps</i> (Schneider)*	Broadheaded Skink

*Sceloporus undulatus hyacinthinus* (Green)  
*Scincella lateralis* (Say)\*

Northern Fence Lizard  
Ground Skink

## Serpentes - Snakes

*Agkistrodon contortrix mokeson* (Daudin)\*  
*Carphophis amoenus amoenus* (Say)  
*Coluber constrictor constrictor* Linnaeus  
*Diadophis punctatus edwardsii* (Merrem)\*  
*Elaphe guttata guttata* (Linnaeus)\*  
*Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta* (Say)  
*Heterodon platirhinos* Latreille\*  
*Lampropeltis calligaster rhombomaculata* (Holbrook)\*  
*Lampropeltis getula getula* (Linnaeus)\*  
*Nerodia sipedon sipedon* (Linnaeus)  
*Opheodrys aestivus* (Linnaeus)\*  
*Regina septemvittata* (Say)\*  
*Storeria dekayi dekayi* (Holbrook)  
*Storeria occipitomaculata occipitomaculata* (Storer)\*  
*Thamnophis sirtalis sirtalis* (Linnaeus)

Northern Copperhead  
Eastern Worm Snake  
Northern Black Racer  
Northern Ringnecked Snake  
Corn Snake  
Black Rat Snake  
Eastern Hognosed Snake  
Mole Kingsnake  
Eastern Kingsnake  
Northern Water Snake  
Rough Green Snake  
Queen Snake  
Northern Brown Snake  
Northern Redbellied Snake  
Eastern Garter Snake

## Testudinata - Turtles

*Chelydra serpentina serpentina* (Linnaeus)  
*Chrysemys picta picta* (Schneider)  
*Sternotherus odoratus* (Latreille)\*  
*Terrapene carolina carolina* (Linnaeus)  
*Trachemys scripta elegans* (Wied)

Common Snapping Turtle  
Eastern Painted Turtle  
Stinkpot  
Eastern Box Turtle  
Red-eared Slider

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\* expected to occur due to presence of favorable habitat

The landuse history of Sweet Briar property has influenced the present-day composition of its herpetofauna. Prior to 1906, when Sweet Briar was founded, the land was largely used for farming. As a result of forest clearing and cultivation of the soil, there are few tracts remaining today that harbor a completely natural soil fauna. Despite the amount of log and rock turning we have done, we found no *Plethodon cinereus* (red-backed salamander). This species is the most abundant soil-leaf litter vertebrate in Virginia (J.C. Mitchell and C.A. Pague, pers. obs.). Its apparent absence at Sweet Briar in tracts now supporting hardwood forest, suggests the terrestrial fauna on these lands was once completely destroyed. Amphibians and reptiles now present likely recolonized

the tracts through active dispersal. This most certainly pertains to the snakes, lizards, and anurans. It is curious, however, that *Plethodon cylindraceus* (white-spotted slimy salamander, see Highton et al., 1989 for the most recent revision of this genus) was found on the Boone-Pryor Nature Area but *P. cinereus* was not. Was the white-spotted slimy salamander population destroyed and the area recolonized later? Did this area actually remain natural and the red-backed salamander population simply not occur here in the first place because of unknown biological reasons? Or did we simply just miss them? Only additional field work in spring and autumn months will reveal whether the apparent absence of the red-backed salamander is real or whether biological reasons caused only a single species to occur on this tract.

The relative security of the Sweet Briar natural areas from outside disturbance provides potential sites for establishment of long-term research plots and observation areas. The diversity of the age of the forest cover on these sites offer opportunities for comparative ecological studies, as well. We encourage their use.

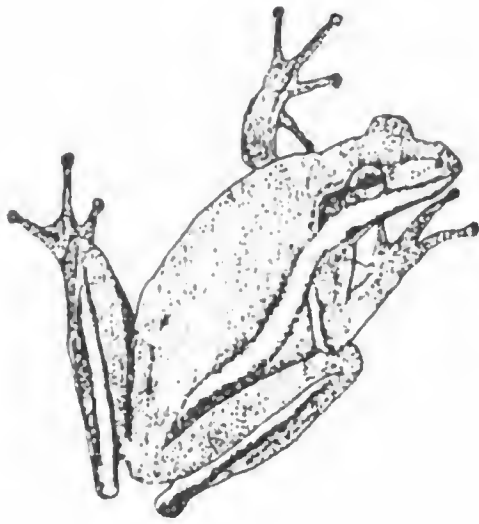
#### Acknowledgments

We thank Ernest P. Edwards for encouraging us to conduct this survey and for a small grant from the Sweet Briar Biology Department to help defray some expenses.

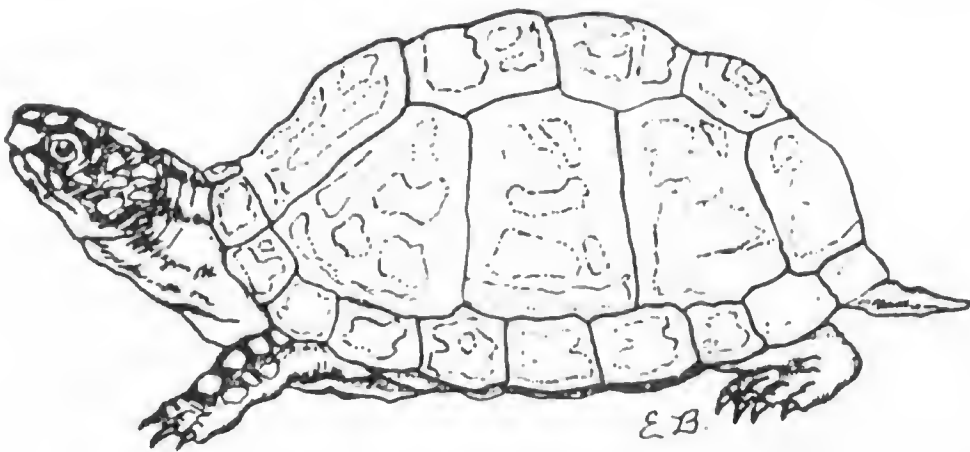
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*Hyla cinerea*  
Feb 1177  
CSP



E.B. W.P.

## FIELD NOTES

*Pseudemys rubriventris rubriventris* (Red-bellied Turtle): City of Suffolk, Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge, Lynn Ditch Road, 0.5 km S Jericho Ditch Road. 28 January 1989. D. Schwab and D. Schwab, Jr. – The remains of a hatchling red-bellied turtle, along with redbay fruits (*Persia borbonia*) were found in a white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus*) nest beneath a piece of discarded plywood. The soft parts of the turtle were almost gone. The carapace was undamaged but the posterior portion of the plastron was missing and showed evidence of rodent tooth marks. The turtle may have been (1) predated upon, (2) scavenged, or (3) picked up and brought to the nest for unknown reasons. The facts that the soft remains appeared to have been shredded and the shell showed tooth marks support the first hypothesis. It is possible the mice only found the remains and were consuming the bone for the mineral content. The specimen is in the D. Schwab collection (D-486-89) and will be donated to a public museum collection.

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PO Box 847  
Suffolk, VA 23434

*Hemidactylium scutatum* (Four-toed Salamander): VA: City of Virginia Beach, Seashore State Park, 31 March and 19 May 1989. K.A. Buhlmann. – Individuals have been found on two occasions in mesic woodland habitat in the center of Seashore State Park. American beech, loblolly pine, and American holly are the dominant trees. The forest floor has wet depressions with some standing water. Adjacent aquatic habitat includes sweetgum and cypress swamp forest. Tobey (1985, Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey, Privately Published, Purcellville, VA, 114 pp.) shows the easternmost locality for this salamander is in York County. Our records extend the range of this species in Virginia to the lower Coastal Plain and adds another amphibian to the already unique fauna of Seashore State Park. The specimens are currently in the Virginia Natural Heritage Program collection and will later deposited in an appropriate public museum collection.

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Virginia Natural Heritage Program  
203 Governor St., Suite 402  
Richmond, VA 232219.

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*Catesbeiana* 1989, 9(2):33

*Crotalus horridus atricaudatus* (Canebrake Rattlesnake): VA: City of Chesapeake, Fentress Naval Auxillary Landing Field, April 1989. K.A. Buhlmann. -- One dead canebrake was found on the north end of the landing field. The specimen was discarded by naval personnel into an open gasoline tank. The habitat in which it was found is an open field and is used for some agriculture. Adjacent habitats include swamps of the North Landing River system. This is the first record for the Fentress military base.

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*Chrysemys picta picta* (Eastern Painted Turtle): Prince George County, VA Rt. 618, 0.5 km N US 460. 30 May 1989. D. Schwab.-- The male, found crossing the road, is the first known to me from this area with a dark plastral marking along the midline. I have found similar markings on painted turtles in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey (Schwab, 1982. Bull. Chicago Herpetol. Soc., 17:68-76). In neither specimens, were the markings as prominent as that found in the midland painted turtle (*C. p. marginata*) Its frequency of occurrence is unknown but I have not seen it on numerous other specimens in southeastern Virginia. The left gular portion of the plastron of the Prince George Co. specimen also was partially detached from the rest of the plastron.

The painted turtle has not been previously reported from Prince George County (Tobey, 1985. Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles: A Distributional Survey, Privately Published, Purcellville, Va., 114 pp.). The specimen will be deposited in a public museum collection.

Don Schwab  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
PO Box 847  
Suffolk, VA 23434

*Malaclemys terrapin terrapin* (Northern Diamondback Terrapin): Accomack County, Assawoman Island. 9 June 1989. D. Schwab and K. Terwilliger.-- Several terrapins were observed on the ocean side of the island during Piping and Wilson plover surveys. Two large females were seen to emerge from the surf, cross the beach, and crawl up the low dunes into the marsh vegetation on the bay side. Numerous tracks and trails, leading into and away from the surf were

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*Catesbeiana* 1989, 9(2):34.



evident along the entire 2.4 km of beach. Two smaller specimens, both missing heads, were found midway between the surf and the dunes. Cause of death was not apparent.

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*Coluber constrictor constrictor* (Northern Black Racer): VA: Loudoun County, 1.0 mi S junction of US Rt. 340 and Co. Rt. 671, Loudoun Heights. early October 1988. F.J. Tobey.-- First record of black racer in northwestern Loudoun Co. in the area locally called "Between the Hills" (Tobey, 1986. *Catesbeiana* 6(2):7-10). The specimen was killed by a lawn mower and not salvaged.

Franklin J. Tobey  
Route 1 Box 381  
Purcellville, VA 22132

*Chelydra serpentina serpentina* (Common Snapping Turtle): VA: Loudoun Co., 1.0 mi S Junction of Co. Rts. 671 and 687, half the distance between Neersville and Lineberry's Store, 26 June 1989. F.J. Tobey.-- First record for this species in western Loudoun Co. (Tobey, 1986. *Virginia's Amphibians and Reptiles, A Distributional Survey. Virginia Herpetol. Survey. Privately Printed, Purcellville, VA, 114 pp.*). The approximately 6 inch (carapace length) specimen was DOR at mid-morning. It was not salvaged.

Franklin J. Tobey  
Route 1 Box 381  
Purcellville, VA 22132

*Deirochelys reticularia reticularia* (Eastern Chicken Turtle): VA: City of Virginia Beach, Seashore State Park. K.A. Buhlmann, C.A. Pague, and J.C. Mitchell. -- Although previously recorded from Seashore State Park in the 1960's (Rageot, 1968, *Bull. VA Herpetol. Soc.*, 57:2) and abundant in the park in the early 1970's (C.A. Pague, pers. obs.), the chicken turtle population has declined over the last 15-18 years. It was officially listed as a state-level endangered species in 1987. We observed only two basking individuals in September 1987 and we saw none in

*Catesbeiana* 1989, 9(2):35.

1988. During 1989, the Virginia Natural Heritage Program has been conducting an ecological inventory in Seashore State Park. As part of that effort we have captured, marked, photographed, and released seven adult chicken turtles (3 males, 4 females) and observed two others basking. These notes are encouraging for the animal that is most likely the rarest vertebrate in Virginia.

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and

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## PROPOSED LIST OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF SPECIAL CONCERN IN VIRGINIA

Joseph C. Mitchell, Chairman  
Amphibian and Reptile Committee  
Virginia Endangered Species Symposium

This list was finalized on 28 April 1989 at the workshop the day before the public seminars. The list of proposed endangered and threatened species will be presented to the Board of Commissioners of the VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries sometime this fall. They will determine if the list is acceptable, allow a 30 or 60 day public comment period, and then hold a second public meeting for a final vote.

### ENDANGERED

#### Federal Endangered and Threatened Species:

<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead Sea Turtle
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Atlantic Green Turtle
<i>Lepidochelys kempi</i>	Atlantic Ridley
<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Atlantic Leatherback

#### State Endangered Species (1 October 1987):

<i>Ambystoma tigrinum tigrinum</i>	Eastern Tiger Salamander
<i>Plethodon shenandoah</i>	Shenandoah Salamander
<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	Bog Turtle
<i>Deirochelys reticularia reticularia</i>	Eastern Chicken Turtle

#### Proposed State Endangered Species:

<i>Crotalus horridus atricaudatus</i>	Canebrake Rattlesnake
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### THREATENED (proposed state level)

<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>	Eastern Glass Lizard
<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle

*Catesbeiana* 1989, 9(2):37-38.



SPECIAL CONCERN (proposed state level)

<i>Ambystoma mabeei</i>	Mabee's Salamander
<i>Ambystoma talpoideum</i>	Mole Salamander
<i>Cryptobranchus alleganiensis alleganiensis</i>	Hellbender
<i>Desmognathus wrighti</i>	Pigmy Salamander
<i>Leurognathus marmoratus</i>	Shovel-nosed Salamander
<i>Plethodon hubrichti</i>	Peaks of Otter Salamander
<i>Plethodon punctatus</i>	Cow Knob Salamander
<i>Plethodon welleri</i>	Weller's Salamander
<i>Bufo quercicus</i>	Oak Toad
<i>Hyla gratiosa</i>	Barking Treefrog
<i>Rana virgatipes</i>	Carpenter Frog
<i>Virginia valeriae pulchra</i>	Mountain Earth Snake

STATUS UNDETERMINED

<i>Necturus maculosus maculosus</i>	Mudpuppy
<i>Necturus punctatus punctatus</i>	Dwarf Waterdog
<i>Plethodon dorsalis dorsalis</i>	Eastern Zigzag Salamander
<i>Siren intermedia intermedia</i>	Eastern Lesser Siren
<i>Siren lacertina</i>	Greater Siren
<i>Stereochilus marginatus</i>	Many-lined Salamander
<i>Pseudacris kalmi</i>	New Jersey Chorus Frog
<i>Malaclemys terrapin terrapin</i>	Northern Diamondback Terrapin
<i>Pseudemys concinna heiroglyphica</i>	Heiroglyphic Cooter
<i>Sternotherus minor peltifer</i>	Stripe-necked Musk Turtle
<i>Trachemys scripta troostii</i>	Cumberland Slider
<i>Trionyx spiniferus spiniferus</i>	Eastern Spiny Softshell
<i>Eumeces anthracinus anthracinus</i>	Northern Coal Skink
<i>Lampropeltis getula nigra</i>	Black Kingsnake
<i>Opheodrys vernalis vernalis</i>	Eastern Smooth Green Snake
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus</i>	Northern Pine Snake
<i>Regina rigida rigida</i>	Glossy Crayfish Snake
<i>Tantilla coronata</i>	Southeastern Crowned Snake

## MINUTES OF SPRING 1989 VHS MEETING

Twenty seven people attended the Spring meeting at Prince William Forest Park on 8-9 April. After a great spaghetti dinner, President Joe Mitchell opened the meeting at 8 PM and introduced charter member, Frank Tobey.

### Old Business

Ron Southwick read the minutes from the Fall 1988 meeting and the Treasurer's report. Balance at the Fall, 1988 meeting was \$1209.30. Expenditures since then included:

Bumper Stickers	\$170.37
New Brochures	71.06
<i>Catesbeiana</i> 9(1)	100.00
Va. Endangered Sp. Symposium	100.00
Prince William Forest Park	35.00
Postage	75.00
Bank Fee	.20
Total	\$551.63

Dues, interest, and bumper sticker receipts were \$516.33. The balance as of 8 April 1989 was \$1174.00.

The co-editors of *Catesbeiana* did not attend the meeting, so the editor's report was not given. There was discussion on the new format for *Catesbeiana* and members were encouraged to contribute materials for publication.

As of 8 April 1989, there were 107 members in VHS, including 17 new members for 1989.

Vice President Kurt Buhlmann brought up the need to recruit young people into VHS by increasing more public awareness of the societies' existence. Three major ideas were discussed:

1. Advertising - designing a poster for schools, etc. to draw attention to VHS.
2. Education - putting together an activity book on herpetology for teachers.
3. Meeting Structure - bring in speakers and live exhibits designed for junior herpetologists.

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*Catesbeiana* 1989, 9(2):39-40.

A committee was formed, which included Kurt Buhlmann, Tim Wright, and Lynda Richardson, to come up with ideas for a society poster and/or information brochures. Dale Brittle volunteered to solicit information from the membership to put together an educational booklet for teachers. Joe Mitchell suggested we do something different at meetings to attract other members. The idea of bringing live animals was discussed at length. Wendy Mitchell suggested that "local" fauna collected in the geographical area of the meeting site could be displayed for both educational and photographic purposes. This idea was favorably accepted by the membership present. Kurt Buhlmann said he would have an exhibit and/or program planned for the Fall meeting.

### New Business

Joe Mitchell announced that David Young was the recipient of the society's first research grant (\$100). Dave will do a survey of the herps of Highland County.

Chris Pague made a motion to establish Life Memberships for the VHS. Don Schwab made a motion that dues for Life Membership be \$150.00. Both motions passed, with one member dissenting.

Joe Mitchell and Don Schwab discussed the status and decline of the canebrake rattlesnake in Virginia. A vote was taken of the membership present on placing it on the state's Endangered Species list. The vote was unanimous in favor of the listing. Chris Pague suggested that, because the VHS President was also the chairman of the herp committee for the Endangered Species Symposium, Richard Hoffman draft a letter for the VHS, stating the society's stand on this critical issue.

The meeting site for the Fall 1989 meeting will be decided by the Executive Committee and announced at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Southwick  
Secretary and Treasurer



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Those of you who were unable to attend the Spring meeting at Prince William Forest Park missed an inspiring one. Despite the cold weather, we did see a variety of amphibians and reptiles. The accomplishments of the business meeting (see the Minutes in this issue) suggests that VHS is on the verge of a new era. The changes in the structure of the Fall meeting as reflected in the schedule on page 43 show that we are trying to make the VHS attractive to younger members and provide a wider range of events for the older members. I hope we can sustain this kind of program for at least the Fall meetings. If we do not, we'll continue to be a group of people who have a good time twice a year but accomplish little. The VHS has not been attractive to young people for some time and it's high time we change that. This Fall meeting will offer a workshop for young people on captive care and identification of local species. Captive specimens of local species of all amphibians and reptiles are needed. Bring 1-3 of your favorite captives and participate in this workshop.

The project headed by Dale Brittle to assemble a booklet (see above) of herp activities for secondary school teachers is important to VHS. It indicates we are willing to help in the state's educational process. Dale informed me, however, that no one sent her activities this summer. Yes, I am as guilty as you are. I told her that we should give this project one year before closing the books on it. This will give us some time to develop several worthwhile projects for the booklet. I sincerely hope that those of you willing to put in a little time will help make this project become a reality. I am counting on each of you to help. Come to the Fall meeting and talk with Dale about this all important project.

Also at this Fall's business meeting, we'll discuss the economics of producing a color poster that can be used to advertise our society. Lynda Richardson has come up with a great design and is willing to donate a beautiful photo for it.

Speaking of advertising, the VHS bumper stickers are now available. You must come to the Fall meeting to get yours for free. Otherwise we will charge you \$1.00 for the cost of postage and envelope (you can get one per car for this charge). If you cannot make the meeting and still want a bumper sticker, send your dollar and a self-addressed mailing label to the Secretary-Treasurer Ron Southwick. These are great stickers.

Only one member has sent me photographs and information from previous VHS meetings. Wendy and I are trying to salvage some of this archival material for an album of past members and meetings. I know some of you have taken photos of groups and some candid shots. Please send this material to me. Anything that must be returned will be copied and sent back as soon as possible. We hope to have at least the beginning of this album for view at the Fall meeting.

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*Catesbeiana* 1989, 9(2);41-42.

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The first VHS Field Research Grant went to David Young. Dave was awarded \$100 to help defray expenses for his survey of the herpetology of Highland County. I know he was successful in extending his coverage of the area this year and I am looking forward to a report in *Catesbeiana* next year. Those of you interested in applying for one of these small field grants, contact me this year. The deadline for the 1990 grant is January 30, 1990.

And finally, we acknowledge our co-editors of *Catesbeiana* Gene Gourley and Chuck Neal. They decided to step down from the editorship this spring. Under their leadership, *Catesbeiana* changed from a standard page size format to the more journal-like 5.5 x 8.5 inch size and entered the word processing age. They also kept production costs to a minimum. We very much appreciate their efforts over the past several years. This issue was assembled by your President because I have been unsuccessful so far in finding replacements. Please let me know at the Fall meeting if you are interested in taking on this all important task.

#### News

A. Several new books have appeared or are about to appear this year. I have listed those I am aware of below.

(1) Ernst, C.H. and R.W. Barbour. 1989. Snakes of Eastern North America. George Mason University Press, 4720 A Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706. \$62.50.

(2). Ernst, C.H. and R. W. Barbour. 1989. Turtles of the World. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, DC. about \$45.00.

(3) Campbell, J.A. and W.W. Lamar. 1989. The Venomous Reptiles of Latin America. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, NY. \$59.50. (members of The Herpetologists' League get this book for \$45.00; see Joe Mitchell for additional information).

(4) Adler, K., J.S. Applegarth, and R. Allig. 1989. Contributions to the History of Herpetology. SSAR, Publications Secretary, Robert D. Aldridge, Dept. of Biology, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO 63103. \$20.00.

(5) Gloyd, H.K. and R. Conant. 1989. Snakes of the *Agkistrodon* Complex. SSAR (see no. 5) \$75.00.

(6) Pfingston, R.A. and F.L. Downs. 1989. Salamanders of Ohio. Bull. Ohio Biological Survey vol. 7, no. 2. Ohio Biological Survey, 484 W. 12th Ave., Columbus, OH 43210. \$30.00 plus \$4.50 handling and postage.

Joseph C. Mitchell  
August 31, 1989



## Fall 1989 Meeting of the VHS

The Fall 1989 meeting will be held on October 7 at Maymont Park in Richmond, VA. See the following pages for directions and map.

Meeting Place: Nature Center, Maymont Park  
Host: Kathy Viverette, Maymont Park

Schedule: Saturday, October 7

9:30-1030 Business Meeting  
1030-1200 Captive Herp and Identification Workshop  
1200-1:00 Picnic Lunch  
1:00-4:30 Paper Session  
4:30-6:00 Photography Workshop  
6:00-8:00 Social

### Notes:

1. Please bring several of your favorite captives to the workshop to be viewed and discussed by you and the young people attending. No exotics and no venomous snakes, please. This is for local, nonvenomous Virginia species only.
2. There are no eating locations near the park, so be prepared to eat picnic style with the rest of us.
3. The paper session is standard: I'll need the title of your talk by Oct. 1.
4. Professional photographer Lynda Richardson and husband Tim Wright will be helping us learn how to take higher quality photos. Bring your cameras.
5. The social is a new event designed to give us more time for interactions. Bring a little something to share, like food, munchies, or drinks.

### Miscellaneous:

A VHS bumper sticker will be available for free to each member who attends this meeting.

### Directions to Maymont Park in Richmond, VA

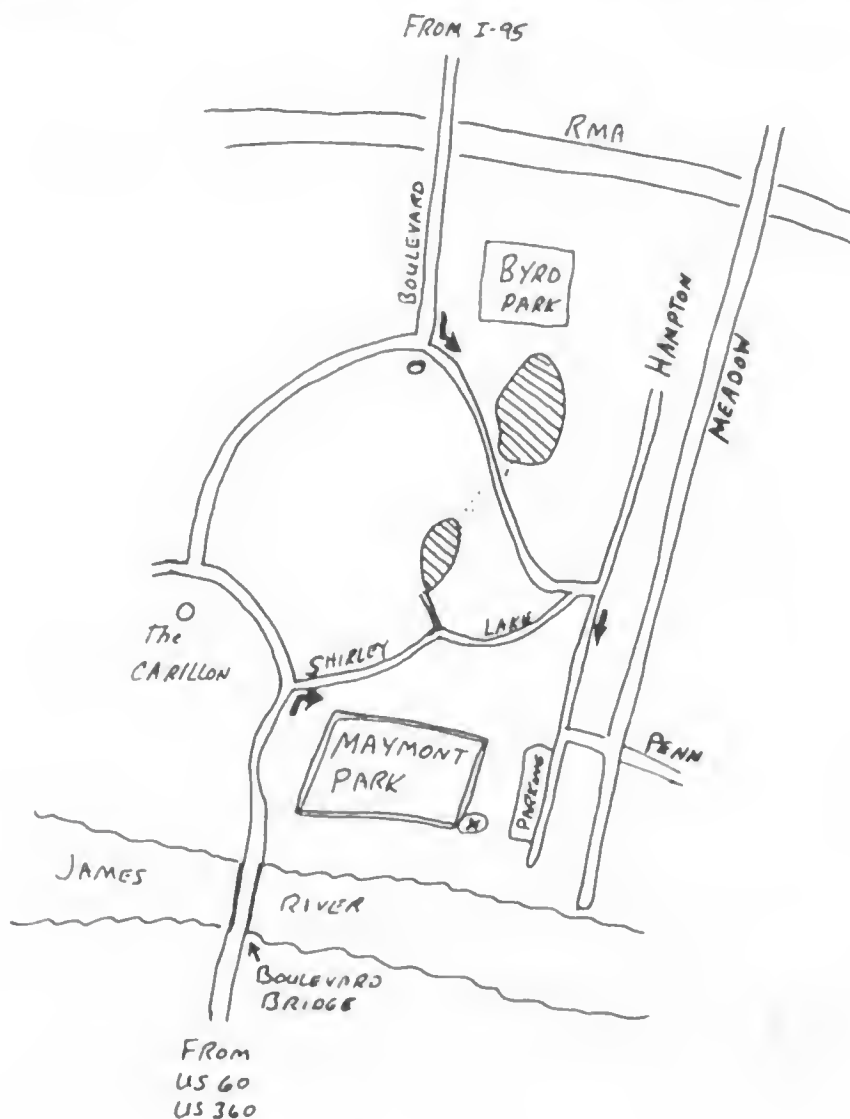
From points north of the James River: Take Interstate 95 to the Boulevard Exit (also the exit for the Diamond and the Science Museum of Virginia); proceed southward past Broad St. and over the Downtown Expressway (I-195 = RMA); the Boulevard will seemingly dead end at the Columbus statue (it turns right);



turn left into Byrd Park and follow green Maymont signs to Hampton Street (bearing left towards lakes); turn right on Hampton Street; go about 0.25 mile and you will see the Maymont parking lot; the Nature Center is the second building on the left.

From points southwest of the James River: Take US Rt. 60 or US Rt. 360 to VA Rt. 161 (Boulevard north of 360; Broadrock Rd. south of 360); turn left (north) and proceed across the Boulevard Bridge (\$0.20 toll); turn right on Shirley; bear left and take a right on Amelia and a right on Hampton into parking area.

From points southeast of the James River: Take I-95 north to just north of the James River; take the I-195 (Downtown Expressway) exit off the right lane; proceed to the Meadow Street exit; turn left on Meadow St.; follow Meadow to Pennsylvania; turn right and proceed to the Maymont Park parking lot. Follow signs to Nature Center.



### Membership Application

I wish to \_\_\_\_\_ initiate \_\_\_\_\_ renew my membership in the Virginia Herpetological Society for the year 19\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to receive a membership list. Enclosed is \$1.00 to cover cost.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dues category: \_\_\_\_\_ Regular (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Family (\$7.50) \_\_\_\_\_ Under 18 (\$3.00)

Interests: \_\_\_\_\_ Reptiles \_\_\_\_\_ Amphibians \_\_\_\_\_ Captive husbandry

\_\_\_\_\_ Distribution \_\_\_\_\_ Natural History \_\_\_\_\_ Research

Specifically \_\_\_\_\_

Makes checks payable to the Virginia Herpetological Society and send to the Treasurer, Ron Southwick, 5608 Parkland Ct., Virginia Beach, VA 23464.





Continued from inside front cover.

### Field Notes

This section provides a means of publishing natural history information on Virginia's amphibians and reptiles that does not lend itself to full-length articles. Observations on geographic distribution, ecology, reproduction, phenology, behavior, and other areas are welcomed. Reports can be on a single species or fauna from selected areas, such as a state park or county. The format of the reports is TITLE (species or area), COUNTY AND LOCATION, DATE OF OBSERVATION, OBSERVERS, DATA and OBSERVATIONS. Names and addresses of authors should appear one line below the report. Consult published notes or the editor if your information does not readily fit this format.

If the note contains information on geographic distribution, a voucher specimen or color slide should be sent in for verification and be deposited with a permanent museum or sent to the Virginia Herpetological Society. Species identification for observational records should be verified by a second, qualified person.

The correct citation format: Croy, S. 1984. Field notes: *Lampropeltis getulus niger*. *Catesbeiana* 4(1):12.

### Herpetological Artwork

Herpetological artwork is welcomed. If the artwork has been published elsewhere, we will need to obtain copyright before we can use in it *Catesbeiana*. We need drawings and encourage members to send us anything appropriate, especially their own work.